

NR

CAR-3  
Willow Grove  
Denton  
Private

Circa 1770-1790

Willow Grove, like Oak Lawn, is situated inland from the major water ways of the County. It is one of the major dwellings of the county and resembles two extant dwellings in Talbot County in plan, Pleasant Valley, built 1774, and Galloway, built around 1780. Col. Matthew Driver constructed the mansion. Subsequently, he had his lands resurveyed in 1795 under the name "Willow Grove."

The plan of the dwelling consists of four rooms on each floor, plus the wing. One of the major rooms houses the great delicate stair with paneled spandrel. Each of the other rooms retain original mantels, trim, paneled chimney breasts, etc. Both facades of the building have semicircular transoms above the broad paneled doors. Willow Grove possesses a secondary stair in the southeast room to the chamber above, a feature similar to Oak Lawn before the latter was remodeled.

Col. Matthew Driver was a very significant figure in early Caroline County, being one of the first Justices for the Court in 1774 and serving as a member of the Committee of Observation in 1775 and serving subsequent positions pertaining to military and political endeavors.

Willow Grove has been owned by the ancestors of the present owner since 1829.

It is on the National Register of Historic ~~Sites~~ and Places.

(July 1969)

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

Maryland

COUNTY: 0600032204

Caroline

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

## 1. NAME

COMMON:

Willow Grove

AND/OR HISTORIC:

Willow Grove Brick House Farm

## 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Maryland Route 457, 2.5 miles southeast of Maryland Rt. 213, .4 mile on private lane from road to house

CITY OR TOWN:

Greensboro

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

COUNTY:

Caroline

CODE

011

## 3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY<br>(Check One)   | OWNERSHIP  | STATUS  | ACCESSIBLE<br>TO THE PUBLIC  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District<br><input type="checkbox"/> Site<br><input type="checkbox"/> Object   | <input type="checkbox"/> Public<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private<br><input type="checkbox"/> Both                                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work<br>in progress                    | Yes:<br><input type="checkbox"/> Restricted<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)  |  |   |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural<br><input type="checkbox"/> Commercial<br><input type="checkbox"/> Educational<br><input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Government<br><input type="checkbox"/> Industrial<br><input type="checkbox"/> Military<br><input type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence<br><input type="checkbox"/> Religious<br><input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)<br><br>                                    |

## 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Thomas C. Horsey, Jr.

STREET AND NUMBER:

c/o Miss Eleanor Horsey, 4 South First Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Denton

STATE:

Maryland

CODE

24

## 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Caroline County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

Market Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Denton

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

## 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Maryland Register of historic sites and landmarks

DATE OF SURVEY:

1968

☐ Federal☒ State☐ County☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Maryland Historical Trust

STREET AND NUMBER:

94 College Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:

Annapolis

STATE:

Maryland

CODE

24

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Maryland  
Caroline

attic. Two tall interior chimneys are enclosed within the southwest gable and one within the northeast gable.

|  |                                    |   |                               |                                       |                                |   |       |  |
|--|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|-------|--|
| CONDITION  | (Check One)                        |   |                               |                                       |                                |   |       |  |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good      | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed                | CAR-3 |  |
|  | (Check One)                        |   |                               |                                       | (Check One)                    |   |       |  |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Altered   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered |                               |                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site |       |  |
| DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE |                                    |   |                               |                                       |                                |   |       |  |

Willow Grove is one of the few Georgian-style houses in Caroline County, Maryland. A documented date of construction has not yet been discovered, but architectural regional details indicate it was constructed between 1780 and 1790. The floor plan and many details are similar to those in the Baynard House, constructed in 1786, in Kent County, Delaware, two miles away.

The two-story brick house covered with a thin coat of stucco, measures thirty-seven feet long and thirty-four feet deep. The northwest facade is five bays long with central door and the southeast facade is four bays long. The house is three bays deep and has a two-story, three-bay brick kitchen wing on the northwest which appears similar to a hyphen and a kitchen, due to a set-back in the wall.

Basement windows are placed behind horizontal wooden grilles. There is no water table, but there is a belt course on three sides of the main block and on the northwest facade of the kitchen. The central doors have semicircular arches with fanlights trimmed with a keystone and impost blocks the same shape as the keystone. The doors and door jambs are all paneled. Portions of the southeast door trim have been reconstructed.

The windows have two-over-two sash and there are some which have six-over-six sash--the original sash would have had nine-over-nine lights with paneled shutters. The main cornice has a "course" of dentils and shaped modillions. Green colored asphalt shingles cover the steeply pitched 'A' roof. Two windows in each of the gable ends light the attic. Two tall interior chimneys are enclosed within the southwest gable and one within the northeast gable.

The northwest entrance opens into a rectangular stair hall. The staircase ascends on three sides of the room. The soffit of the staircase has raised panels and the step ends have strapwork scrolls. The staircase has turned newel posts and square balusters. The rail rises above each corner post and the rail and bottom step terminate in a "volute" with ten balusters. Only one turned drop finial remains beneath one of the corner posts.

Directly opposite the main door is an arch opening into a small square space with a vaulted ceiling, which in turn leads to the largest of the four first-story rooms. There is an interior transom above the door into this room (similar to that within "Pleasant Valley," Talbot County) and repeating the design of the two exterior doors of the house. Woodwork in the south room consists of a heavy molded baseboard, three-part chair rail and trim; recessed panel

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

# 8. SIGNIFICANCE

CAR-3

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian    ☐ 16th Century    ☒ 18th Century    ☐ 20th Century  
☐ 15th Century    ☐ 17th Century    ☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

c. 1780-1790

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |   |   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering  | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry     | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              | <u>local history</u>                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            | _____   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape    | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature   | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military     |   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music        |   |   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Willow Grove is important for its Georgian-style architecture as well as the importance of the builder, Matthew Driver, Jr., in the growth of the new nation and in the growth of the then newly formed Caroline County, Maryland.

Matthew Driver, Jr., born on August 30, 1740, married John Bayard's daughter, Margaret Casson. Two tracts of land were acquired by this marriage which were later to be part of "Willow Grove." Several other pieces of property adjacent to the original two tracts were purchased between 17 and 1793 making a total of 675 acres which Driver caused to be resurveyed in 1795 under the name of "Willow Grove."

In 1774 Mathew Driver, Jr., was appointed Justice of the first Caroline County Court by the Governor of the Province of Maryland. He was appointed a member of the House of Delegates as well as Chairman of Safety for Caroline County and Captain of the Militia of Caroline County. In the following year he was appointed Lieutenant Colonel and was second in command to Colonel William Whitely; the latter was Commander-in-Chief of both battalions of the Militia in Caroline County. Driver was commissioned as a full Colonel in 1778 by the House of Delegates and in 1779 was commissioned to pay soldiers of the Fifth and Seventh Maryland Regiments for service in the American Revolution.

In 1782, he subscribed thirty pounds to the founding and support of Washington College, Chestertown, Kent County Maryland, and in 1786 he gave a two-acre lot to Caroline County for the erection of the county's first courthouse.

With his son-in-law, Peter Edmonson, and two other members from Caroline County, Driver ratified the United States Constitution at the State Convention in 1788.

Matthew Driver, Jr., died at Willow Grove on July 23, 1798 and left the plantation and house to his wife for her natural life after which time his son, Joshua, inherited it.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Recorder: Michael Bourne, Maryland Historical Trust, 94  
College Avenue, Annapolis, Maryland 21401.

Land Records, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

Land Records, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge,  
Maryland.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY |                         |                         | O<br>R | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY<br>OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES |                         |                         |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| CORNER   | LATITUDE                | LONGITUDE               |        | LATITUDE  | LONGITUDE               |                         |
|  | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds |        | Degrees Minutes Seconds   | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds |
| NW   | 38° 56' 07"             | 75° 46' 23"             |        | 0   | 0                       | 0                       |
| NE   | 38° 55' 50"             | 75° 45' 56"             |        |   |                         |                         |
| SE   | 38° 55' 20"             | 75° 46' 28"             |        |   |                         |                         |
| SW   | 38° 55' 36"             | 75° 46' 54"             |        |   |                         |                         |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 25 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY  | CODE |
|--------|------|---------|------|
|        |      |         |      |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
|        |      |         |      |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
|        |      |         |      |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
|        |      |         |      |

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Mrs. Preston Parish, Keeper of the Maryland Register

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

Jan. 13, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:

94 College Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

## 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

## NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name

Orlando Ridout IV  
Orlando Ridout IV

Title

State Liaison Officer  
for Maryland

Date

January 14, 1972

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

Form 10-300a  
(July 1969)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

|                    |      |
|--------------------|------|
| STATE<br>Maryland  |      |
| COUNTY<br>Caroline |      |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY   |      |
| ENTRY NUMBER       | DATE |
|                    |      |

(Number all entries)

Willow Grove

## #7. DESCRIPTION continued

window jambs; pilasters beneath the window trim; and a cove cornice. The mantel has molded consoles supporting the shelf; between the consoles is a strapwork frieze of interlocking "wall of troy" design.

The west room off the stair hall has a paneled overmantel with crossettes and a mantel shelf atop fluted blocks. The other trim is similar to that of the south room. A narrow passage is located beneath the third flight of stairs to the second story, between the hall and the east room. The passage leads to the kitchen wing and the east room. The east room has a heavy chair rail and raised panel chimney breast. There is a secondary, enclosed staircase in the west corner of the east room leading to the bedroom directly above.

There are now (1971) two rooms only in the kitchen wing where formerly there were two rooms and a narrow passage. Each of the two former rooms had a fireplace and plain trim. A modern bath and porch open off these two rooms. An enclosed stair between the two rooms leads to tiny sleeping rooms above.

The second story of the main part has the same general floor plan as the first floor, but the trim in each room is plainer and there is no cornice. The main staircase continues to the attic where there are two unfinished rooms.

## #8. SIGNIFICANCE continued

Joshua Driver was not as active as his father in public affairs but in 1800 he assisted in surveying the town of Denton with six others so appointed. He is said to be an 'Attorney-at-law' in a deed of 1810. His half-brother, Matthew Driver III was appointed the Trustee to settle Joshua's estate in 1818. Matthew III subsequently sold the property to James Sangston who had married Ann Robinson, the granddaughter of Matthew Driver, Jr. Sangston sold it to Thomas S. Carter in 1829, who in turn sold it to James Carter in 1840. James Carter's holdings of 1245 acres were divided at the time of his death, his daughter Ellen M. Horsey obtaining that portion of "Willow Grove" with the dwelling. It has since passed through four generations of the Horsey family to the present owner, Thomas C. Horsey, Jr.

(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

|                    |      |       |
|--------------------|------|-------|
| STATE<br>Maryland  |      | CAR-3 |
| COUNTY<br>Caroline |      |       |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY   |      |       |
| ENTRY NUMBER       | DATE |       |
|                    |      |       |

(Number all entries)

Willow Grove

#9. REFERENCES continued

Will Records, Caroline County Courthouse, Denton, Maryland

Forman, Henry Chandlee, Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland, Easton, Md.: the author, 1934.

Scharf, J. Thomas, History of Maryland From the Earliest Period to the Present Day, 3 vols., Baltimore: John B. Piet, 1879.

Works Progress Administration, Maryland A Guide to the Old Line State, New York: Oxford Press, 1940.

Horsey, Eleanor F., "History of Willow Grove--The Brick House Farm," typescript, March 1965, files of the Maryland Historical Trust.

"The Horsey Lineage," The Sun (Baltimore), July 23 and 30, 1905.

Fisher, John C., Surveyor, Caroline County, 1936 survey.

Cochrane, Laura C., The History of Caroline County, 1920.

DENTON QUADRANGLE  
USGS 7.5 minute map (Maryland)  
scale: 1: 24 000  
1944

lat. 38° 55' 33.0"  
long. 75° 46' 36.3"

lat. 38° 55' 38.0"  
long. 75° 46' 23.7"

3

WILLOW GROVE

lat. 38° 55' 28.0"  
long. 75° 46' 36.3"

lat. 38° 55' 28.0"  
long. 75° 46' 23.7"

Mill Pond

Garvey

Gravel  
Pit

BM

55

BM

51

County Farm

BURRISVILLE 1 MI.  
HARRINGTON 11 MI.

317

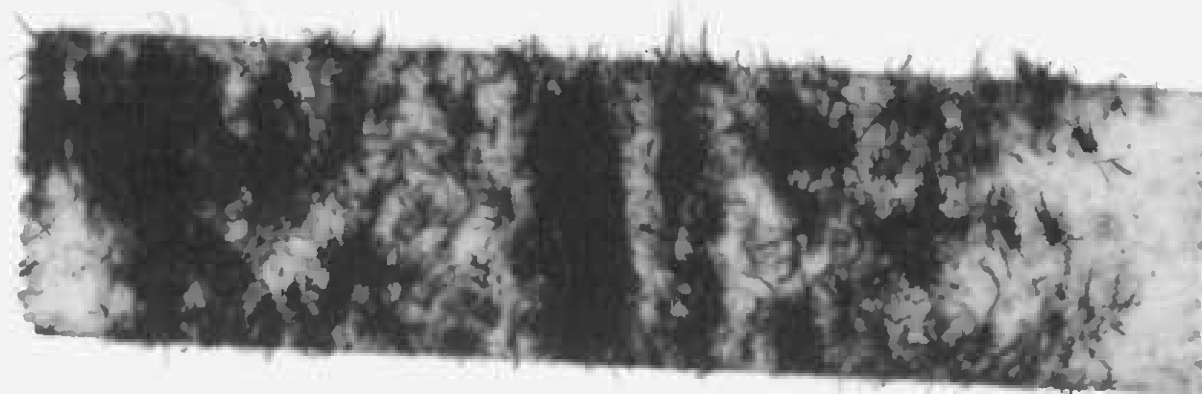




NILLOW GROVE.

CAROLINE COUNTY

CAR-3

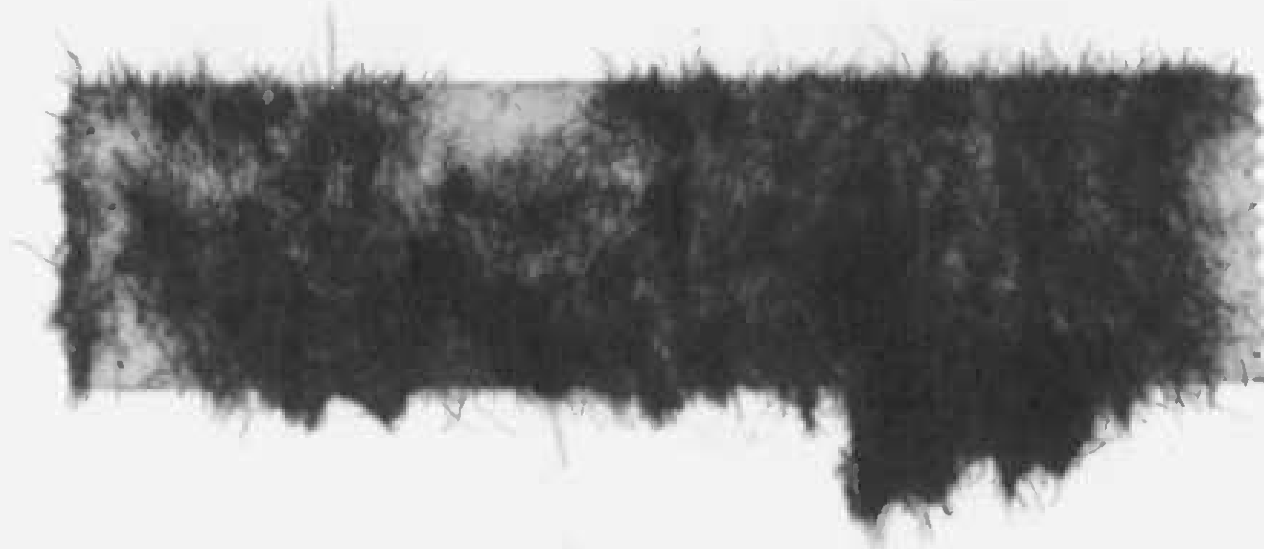


MD. HISTORICAL TRUST  
BOX 1704  
ANNAPOLIS, MD. 21404

Michael Bourne March 1968



Willow grove - CRK-3



607-5-